(b) the measures taken to provide expeditious clearance to the passengers to ease congestion faced due to bunching of flights?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION(SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Bunching of flights during nights at international airports in India is due to night curfew imposed in airports east and west of the country. However,efforts are made wherever possible to provide expeditious clearance by providing more immigration counters, expansion of terminal areas, increasing length of baggage claim conveyors, improving passenger facilitation, providing additional aerobridges and coloured X-ray baggage machines, etc.

Legal expenses of AI

4251. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the legal expenses of Air India for the years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(b) whether Government have ordered any inquiry into the steep rise of legal expenses in Air India for the year 1999-2000;

(c) if so, what is the outcome of the inquiry, who are the officials responsible and what action has been initiated against them;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the above issue has been brought to his knowledge *vide* letter dated 8th January, 2002;and

(f) what action has been taken on the letter?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) The legal expenses of Air India during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 are Rs. 19.14 crores and Rs. 7.64 crores respectively.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. On 22.1.2002 MD, Air India has been asked to look into the matter. Accordingly, Chief Vigilance Officer of Air India Limited has been directed to enquire into the matter and his report is yet to be received.